

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

1st CORFE CASTLE BROWNIE PACK	CHRISTINE KEMP	480007
AQUARIUS CORFE CASTLE WOMEN IN TOUCH	JILL REVANS	480852
BADMINTON	RUTH CARR	480868
BUSY BEES	CLAIRE HOLLARD	481631
CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES	CAROLE SPEED	480810
CHURCH KNOWLE FOOD FAYRE	ANN WAINWRIGHT	480567
CHURCH KNOWLE PARISH CLERK	ALISTAIR WALLACE	07731841093
CHURCH KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL	ANGELA BOON	480534
CHURCH KNOWLE READING ROOM BOOKINGS	SHIRLEY HULL	480341
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CORFE CASTLE CLUB	BAR STEWARD (CHUBBY)	480591
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST	ALISON PALMER	480096
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY		480760
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY PRE SCHOOL	NATALIE TERRETT	481631
CORFE CASTLE CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL	AMY SCOTT (Head of school)	480428
CORFE CASTLE FOOTBALL CLUB	KEVIN REYNOLDS	480179
CORFE CASTLE GARDENING	GERRY STOKER	481517
CORFE CASTLE RINGERS (TOWER CAPTAIN)	BRIAN DEAN	480620
CORFE CASTLE SURGERY	Dr MARK LEPPER	480441
CRAZY 4 CORFE	DENISE FULLER	477247
CORFE CASTLE PARISH CLERK	MICHELLE HARRINGTON	01202 670105
CORFE CASTLE TOWN TRUST	LOUISE HAYWOOD	481375
CORFE CASTLE TOWN HALL BOOKINGS	JOHN LINDSAY	481498
CORFE CASTLE YOUTH CLUB	DONNA DAVIS	481284
CORFE CASTLE TODDLER GROUP	CHERYL THAKE	424290
CORFE COMMON HAYWARD		
CORFE CASTLE VILLAGE HALL	CAROLE SPEED	480810
DORSET WILDLIFE TRUST KIMMERIDGE	JULIE HATCHER	481044
DOUBLE ACT	PETER SMITH	480109
DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION	LEAH CROSS	01202 712869
FRIENDS OF C C COMMUNITY LIBRARY	ALISON ALLWRIGHT	480123
FRIENDS OF THE SURGERY	KATHY MORRIS	425890
FURZEBROOK HALL BOOKINGS	CLAIR GREEN	553138
FURZEBROOK WHIST DRIVES	EILEEN CAKE	552392
GOD'S ACRE CLERK	MICHELLE HARRINGTON	01202 670105
KIMMERIDGE VILLAGE HALL	OFFICE	270000
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP	LOUISE HAYWOOD	481375
MARGARET GREEN ANIMAL RESCUE	GEOFF WRIGHT	480474
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NATIONAL TRUST	NICK HUGHES	450002
PARISH CHURCHES	Rev IAN JACKSON	480257
POTTERY IN PURBECK	RACHEL FOOKS	480455
PROBUS CLUB	STAN LAYTON	480038
PURBECK ASS'N of the NATIONAL TRUST	DAVID COLE	550488
PURBECK CHESS CLUB	STEVE PEIRSON	552504
PURBECK GARDENING CLUB	CYRIL HARRISON	552105
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SWANAGE AND PURBECK ROTARY	DEIRDRE SELWYN	480279

CORFE VALLEY NEWS



MARCH 2021

*An independent magazine for
the villages of Corfe Castle, Church Knowle,
Furzebrook, Kingston, Kimmeridge, Steeple and environs*

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Corfe Valley News

A monthly magazine providing news, information and items of interest for the villages of Corfe Castle, Kingston, Church Knowle, Kimmeridge, Steeple and environs.

Established June 1982
Issue No 467 March 2021

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James Kirkwood 1985-91
Geoff Marshall 1991-96
Kate Macdonald 1996-97
Linda Applin 1997 - 2004

Please send items for publication by 5 pm on the **15th** of the preceding month. All contributions can be left at 55 East Street or at The Post Office, Corfe Castle.

Preferably items should be e-mailed to **corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk**

Items received after the 15th may not be printed until the next issue

Editorial

Many will know of Joan Brachi who used to live in Kimmeridge. She was an accomplished artist and several of her sketches have appeared on the cover of the CVN. She later moved into Corfe where she lived in the almshouses. She died in 2013, just after her 92nd birthday, but we've now learned that she wrote a record of her wartime work. With the permission of her son Peter we are publishing this interesting record in the CVN. The first part of her story is in this addition and it will be concluded in the April CVN. Thank you Joan for leaving us this account of your wartime work. Thank you also to Peter for letting us publish it.

As more and more people become vaccinated we must all hope that we can see at least a partial end to the current lockdown. As the weather warms up we will hopefully be able to meet at least outside again. We must also hope that the pubs, cafes and restaurants will be able to reopen.

The Parish Council Environmental Group have a centre page pull out this month. It has useful information about what we can all do about the environmental emergency as well as about forthcoming meetings. Just pull it out and stick it on the fridge or wherever else you keep useful information and the usual centre page is underneath.

Stephen

Some useful Telephone Numbers

(there are more just after the middle of the magazine)

Police non-emergency call line	101
National Electricity Number	105
NHS Emergency Medical Care Service	111
In the event of Gas Leak	0800 111999
Electricity Failure	0800 0727282
Swanage Police Station - out of hours calls rerouted	422004
Swanage Hospital	422282
National Trust outside office hours	07970-595963
Wareham Hospital	552433
Poole Hospital	01202 665511
Bournemouth Hospital	01202 303626
Dorset County Hospital	01305 251150
Corfe Castle Community Library	480760
Dorset CAB Advice Line: Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm	0800 144 8848
The Samaritans	01202 551999
Street Light Defect - SEC Contracting	0800 068 4145
Childline	0800 1111
Dorset Councillor – Cherry Brooks	07512897908

Corfe Valley News

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The cover picture is a sketch of Gaulter Gap at Kimmeridge
by Joan Brachi

THE NEW YEAR FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH

Parish Caretaker

It was agreed to employ a Parish Caretaker on a self-employed basis, to help look after our wonderful parish. The role will entail roles such as, keeping the square clean and clear during the summer, maintaining all Parish assets such as the playground, cleaning road signs, general grounds maintenance to name a few. To start the role will be based on an average of 5 hours a week which can be organised flexibly. Please see our advertisement in this copy of CVN. If this role is something you like the sound of please contact the Clerk for the detailed job specifications.

Playground OPEN again

Last month the Parish Council had to notify you that the playground had to be closed due to storm damage to the fence, however it is with delight we can now let you know that the playground is OPEN again as the repair works have been carried out.

Playground Refurbishment

After an initial consultation with the public back in December 2019, and listening to what the parishioners stated they wished to see installed, Corfe Castle Parish Council is excited to let you know that new play equipment for the age range of 8+ is being investigated and will be installed where the adult fitness equipment is currently situated. It is hoped to place an order in the next few weeks. If you have any concerns or views on this, please contact the Clerk.

Footpath from Woodyhyde to Corfe Castle Village

The National Trust & Parish Council are still making progress with the permissive footpath from Woodyhyde to Corfe Castle village. A new pathway has been cut into the grass, and new signs and gates are on the way.

West Street Toilet Contract

Corfe Castle Parish Council is very proud of the West Street Toilets and have over the past couple of years enjoyed reading some of the comments emailed to the Clerk by visitors stating the West Street Toilets are one of the cleanest public toilets they have visited. With this in mind, as the cleaning contract was due to end this year, the Council have agreed as stated within the original contract to extend the current agreement for 1 year. Corfe Castle Parish Council would like

to thank JD Facilities for all their hard work and dedication to keep Corfe Castle Clean.

Annual General Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council have provisionally set 10th May 2021 for the Annual General Meeting and the 24th May 2021 for the Annual Parish Meeting. Both these dates are subject to change should current regulations continue for mass gatherings.

Planning & Licensing Matters.

Swanworth Quarry update. - Natural England have objected to the Swanworth enhancements, however they suggested ways in which the company can mitigate the problems that Natural England foresee. The Board for the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has also objected. A planning consultant to Dorset Council is now dealing with the application and has stated that no recommendation can be made at the moment, as formal requests have been submitted to the applicant for further information and therefore the process is currently suspended. Once available the further information will be advertised, and the Parish Council will comment further.

Update from Dorset Council

Due to lockdown and staff shielding, some Dorset Council staff are being re-deployed to other areas, for example some of the highways team are driving the dust bin lorries, so please if you need to contact Dorset Council be patient and be reassured services will return to normal shortly. The proposed footpath from Purbeck Park to Corfe Castle, is progressing, albeit slowly, and it is hoped there will be more to report back on by the next Parish Council meeting in March.

Dorset Council is looking at car parking charges and has set up area working groups including one for Corfe Castle and Wareham. The Parish Council sees West Street remaining as a minimum 3 hour car park but a special low charge is needed for those visiting the surgery.

Update from the National Trust

The plan at the moment is for Corfe Castle to re-open on Monday 29th March which is the Monday prior to Good Friday, This will be subject to change depending on the national picture. The National Trust do not see Corfe Castle as an exercise location but as a tourist location, so if lockdown is still in place the Castle will not open. If the castle can open the National Trust plan on

reducing the number of entries per day by about half compared to last summer, when about 1700 people were allowed in. A pre-booking system will also be the only method of entry.

Next month David Brown (Partnership Landscape Manager for the National Trust) will give a presentation to the Parish Council during the March monthly meeting on what the trust is doing to reach Carbon Net Zero within the Purbeck area and nationally.

The next Council meeting will be on the 8th March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom. The Public is welcome to attend and participate in the public half hour at the start of the Council meeting. Details will be posted on the website & on Facebook. For further information please contact the Clerk Michelle Harrington, e-mail Corfecastlepc@aol.com – 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ, or telephone 01202 670105. Full minutes of the meetings are available on the Website www.corfecastlepc.org.uk or a postal copy can be requested through the Clerk

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, for all the latest updates at <https://www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC>

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Update from the Environmental Group meeting, Wednesday 10th February



Dates for your diary

- Tue 2nd March **People's Assembly** on the Dorset Council Local Plan
- Thu 11th March **Environmental Group** meeting
- Wed 17th March Sustainable Swanage's **Solar Streets** meeting

Solar Streets Scheme

Swanage Town Mayor Mike Bonfield says: "Solar Streets is a great way for local residents to learn more about the installation of solar panels and I would encourage everyone to investigate this opportunity to increase the use of clean energy in our community." For more information and to register for the launch meeting go to <https://planetpurbeck.org>.

The Secret Field

This is an exciting community project that we can all get involved with and enjoy; keep an eye out for more details in the April CVN.

CEE Bill

We are hoping to grow support for the **Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill**. See <https://www.ceebill.uk> and the next Parish Council meeting

Carbon Footprint Tool

Giki Zero was launched. See centre pull-out – <https://zero.giki.earth/faqs>

Biodiversity Projects

- An offer of an area for a **tree nursery** and development of a **seed bank**.
- The possibility of **tree planting at Kimmeridge**.
- Working with Sustainable Swanage on monitoring and surveying swifts, and then, if appropriate, putting up **swift bird boxes**.
- Let us know if you can think of any **sites for tree planting** in the Parish.
- We are looking for volunteers to "**get your hands dirty**", just get in touch.

CEE Strategy People's Assembly follow up

- The core team are **working through the ideas and actions** from the PA, & will add common themes / recurring actions to our EG Action Plan.
- See also our relaunched **Top Tips** article.

Our meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Join us or get in touch via the Parish Clerk (Michelle) corfecastlepc@aol.com
Follow us on Facebook: "Corfe Castle Environmental Group"

CCPEG Core Group members: Josey, Helen, Tom, Luke, David & Richard.

Top Tips



The aim of this new feature is to offer a few handy hints and suggestions.

Whilst we hope most of you will be signing up to Giki Zero (centre pull-out) we feel it's important to include some suggestions here for the community.

Our first suggestion comes from the CVN archives (thank you Stephen!). David, from the core group, first wrote his 'Planet-Saving Hints' back in 2005.

'Happiness is a fairly traded banana' – It's 2021, yet the producers of many of our favourite goods live in dire poverty – similar conditions to the workers during our industrial revolution around 200 years ago! Fairtrade seeks to ensure that farmers and workers get a fair price and support with projects such as clean drinking water and healthcare.

Good to know: The national Fairtrade Fortnight is running as this issue of the CVN hits your doormat. Search '*Fairtrade Fortnight*' to learn more.

Challenge: Try to only buy Fairtrade chocolate / coffee / bananas in March!

Encourage wildlife in your gardens:

- Feed the birds – the easiest way to make new friends!
- Create hedgehog corridors – fencing with suitable holes!
- Choose flowers to attract pollinators – Borage / Coneflower / Lavender
- Create a mini pond – all you need is a bucket! Search '*Mini Pond*'
- Plant native flowers / shrubs / trees – too many to list here!
- Go chemical free – avoiding all weedkillers / slug pellets.
- Create a 'pocket of Purbeck' or a 'mini meadow' in your garden...
...A dedicated 'patch' that you allow to go wild – the bigger the better
- Home compost as much as you can – Perhaps try the *Bokashi method*.

Good to know: Corfe Castle has a really friendly gardening club, why not join?! See their CVN page or call Gerry for more information 01929 481517

Challenge: Grow your own food? A window-box of herbs is a lovely start!

If you're already doing some of the things on our list... that's great! Share your achievements and ideas with your neighbours, friends, colleagues and us too via the Parish Clerk (Michelle) corfecastlepc@aol.com

Together, we will make a positive difference in Purbeck and beyond...

Job Vacancy

Corfe Castle Parish Council – Parish Caretaker

Corfe Castle Parish Council is seeking to appoint a "Parish Caretaker". A local person with passion and a caring nature for the area within the Parish Boundaries. The main duties are keeping the Parish clean, maintaining Parish assets (such as the playground), small repairs and jobs, cutting back overgrown and encroaching hedges, clearing leaves as well as identifying and reporting damage or hazards.

Typically working for around 5 hours per week, the ideal candidate will be physically fit, have experience of safety and hazard identification and also enjoy working outdoors. The specific hours of work will be by agreement with the Clerk and may vary from 5 hours in one session for part of the year and daily for an hour in busier periods.

You will be expected to use your own vehicle and equipment. The rate of pay is negotiable; however, the Council has budgeted for £15 per hour.

For an information pack containing the Job Description and Contract Details, please contact Michelle Harrington - Parish Clerk, 01202 670105 or email corfecastlepc@aol.com.

Applications can be sent to Michelle Harrington, 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ or emailed to corfecastlepc@aol.com.

The deadline for applications is close of business on 15th March 2021



Corfe Castle CE Primary School
East Street, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset, BH20
5EE

Telephone 01929 480428 Email
corfecastle.office@coastalpartnership.co.uk
Website www.corfecastle.dorset.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher Ms S Craig

Head of School Miss A Scott

What an extraordinary Spring Half Term we have just experienced! Teachers had been planning over the Christmas period to deliver lessons to our children in school and then, within 24 hours' notice, transposed this into a remote learning offer. I am incredibly proud of how dedicated and flexible the staff have been and how enthusiastic and committed the children have been towards continuing their education remotely.

School has been open every day since the beginning of term offering provision for our vulnerable children and children of keyworkers. Whilst providing this learning provision, we have also simultaneously been providing children with remote learning. Despite some challenges along the way, we have all become jolly good at this now! Our families have been very supportive especially as they too have had to rather quickly become adept at using Google Classrooms, whilst also getting to grips with once again teaching their children at home. We are always reviewing and evolving our remote learning offer as both staff and children become more confident with using the technology. It has been lovely to still feel a strong sense of the school community through facilitating live virtual 'meets' with each class. Children are now able to be listened to read online as well as have in some cases some 1 to 1 support for their learning.

Parents and staff have made sure that children have been accessing the wider curriculum. Some children have been creating hats in the style of Coco Chanel whilst other children have become one-man band musicians using their bodies as percussion instruments to form part of their music lessons. The Christian Value we have been learning about is Perseverance. We are very proud of how our children have persevered during such a difficult time. Children and staff have had to be inventive and resourceful but it continues to be a real pleasure to work in partnership with our parents and local community to ensure this period of partial school closures continues to offer a suitable educational alternative for all our children.

Best wishes, Ms S Craig
 Executive Headteacher

Miss A Scott
 Head of School

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Corfe Castle Surgery

We hope that you are all safe and well in this third lockdown and would like to reiterate that unless you really need to leave the house, please stay home and follow all other government guidelines with hand washing, face coverings and social distancing.

We again ask that all patients attending the outside window at the Surgery to please wear a face mask to protect all staff and other patients.

Following on from last month's announcement that you will be contacted as soon as you become eligible for the Covid Vaccine, please could I ask that anyone over the age of 70 years, contact the surgery if you haven't been contacted by us and would like to book in for a vaccine.

If you have been given an appointment for a Covid vaccine, it is extremely difficult to change the day and time of an appointment so we would be grateful if you could make every effort to keep to the day and time given.

Some of you may have noticed that Di has now left the Practice, we all miss her very much but we will stay in contact and we wish her well in the future.

By the publication date of this article, Dr Vicky Gunn will be on maternity leave and as soon as I can update you on who will be covering her sessions I will.

Many thanks, please stay safe.

Kerry Norman

Practice Manager

Patient Participation Group

At last some good news: the amazingly speedy roll-out of the vaccination programme, both nationally and here in Dorset. Although the daily toll of reported deaths is still sadly high, the rapidly- falling number of new cases every day gives us hope that before long we shall be able to see our friends

and family again. On top of the Lockdown the rising percentage of the vaccinated population with some immunity will be having a cumulative effect.

As you know our six Purbeck GP practices have combined to deliver our Covid 19 jabs at the Wareham Hospital Hub. The process starts with each surgery contacting its patients (when it's their turn in line with the national priorities) to arrange the dates of their first and second appointments at Wareham. For us at Corfe Castle Surgery the staff have, as always, surpassed themselves. Until now they have been phoning every single eligible person individually to arrange a date for their jab. As this has been found to be too time-consuming and the clinics are more regular than at first, you will instead now receive a letter from the Surgery as soon as there are appointments available in Wareham. Our Surgery staff are so helpful and much appreciated. A typical excited reaction to the phone invitation was 'oh whoopee'! The team are doing this extra work week in, week out, and will be doing so, month in and month out, for a long time to come. It is an exhausting process on top of their normal workload but so worthwhile. Each person jabbed may be a life saved. Thank you all.

The PPG has also had positive reports from dozens of people full of praise for their experience of being jabbed at Wareham Hospital. Comments received include the words 'seamless', 'efficient', 'grateful', 'relieved', 'happy to be there', 'amazing'. One person expressed a common reaction 'I felt elation coming out of me afterwards'. One PPG member administering the vaccine was told 'It's an honour to have you vaccinating me'. We would urge you to come forward if you have been holding back for whatever reason. Those of us who've had the jab can reassure you that there is nothing to fear. You will be helped at every stage by smiley volunteers and friendly professionals. It may save your life or someone else's.

Our thanks go to the very many heroes – doctors, nurses, admin staff, and volunteers- who are putting us first and working such long hours to keep us as safe as possible. By way of thanks we can play our part by still maintaining social distancing!

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We currently have spaces available. If you are considering a Pre School setting for your child, please call us for more information or to make an appointment to have a look around. We offer full day care for 2, 3- and 4-year olds from 8.50am – 5.15pm daily across our sessions.

We offer 15 funded hours for eligible 2-year olds, and 15 or 30 funded hours for eligible 3- and 4-year olds, these hours can be used in term time only or stretched over 50 weeks of the year.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our lovely Pre School. We enjoy a fantastic relationship with Corfe Castle Primary School, helping prepare children for school, and over the years we have extended our opening times, allowing working parents and those with caring responsibilities access to quality, cost effective, childcare.

For more details about any of the above, or any other queries, please give us a call on 01929 481631 or email to corfecastlepreschl@uwclub.net

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Hopefully you are all keeping well. We are keen to get the Club re-opened as soon as is deemed safe. Please monitor our Facebook page for any developments.

Try our thought provoking quiz to ease the boredom of isolation! Can you work out the British & Irish town names below?

1. Singing sisters(8)
2. NY Theatre land(8)
3. Starting at cards(4)
4. Bibliophiles delight(3-2-3)
5. Ghostly spirit(5)
6. Beach composer(8)
7. Pocket coloured balls(5)
8. Earl's knitted jacket(8)
9. Used to cost a penny to go(4)
10. 5 lines only(8)
11. Famous for it's crystal(9)
12. Useful only if you don't drink the last drop(4)
13. Battle town(8)
14. Milk in the pasture(12)(Glynn )
15. But how is father?(10)
16. All the food is left(8)
17. Not paid kitty(10)
18. Highwayman's demand(7)
19. Insect's description(7)
20. What are you doing now(7)
21. Gardening equipment in fire(6-2-7)

1. Beverley
2. Broadway
3. Deal
4. Hay-on-Wye
5. Goole
6. Sandbach
7. Poole
8. Cardigan
9. Looe
10. Limerick
11. Waterford
12. Cork
13. Hastings
14. Huddersfield
15. Motherwell
16. Nuneaton
17. Felixstowe
18. Andover
19. Crawley
20. Reading
21. Barrow-in-Furness

(Fold to hide answers)



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cheese - £8.50

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Corfe Castle Village Hall

100 club:

The February draw first prize of £20 was won by member 12, with member 69 getting second prize £10 and member 52 winning the third prize £4.50. We will retain the prizes and distribute them when lockdown finishes.

Profit from the 100 Club plays a significant part in supporting the everyday running costs of the Village Hall. With limited income from bookings currently, this support is even more valuable. If you would like to discuss becoming a 100 Club subscriber, please contact Penny Barker on 01929 481477.

general news:

The hall is currently closed as we are in the third COVID lockdown. The only permitted exception to this is to allow Alcoholics Anonymous to continue to offer support in their weekly meeting in the Bill Carter room on Thursday evenings.

When we are allowed to re-open and when Trustees vote to do so, regular users and also occasional users will be welcome to return, but it will be necessary to have submitted a satisfactory Risk Assessment. The Village Hall is a COVID-19 Secure building, so on re-opening it is likely that we can host more than 6 people so long as users can limit their social interactions with anyone they do not live with, do not visit or socialise in a group of more than 6 and continue to wear their face coverings at all times (except when eating or drinking). More than 6 people can take part in activities together – so long as social distancing is possible between households – 2m or 1m+ with extra precautions (face coverings & good hand hygiene). Full details of all the extra conditions that have been necessary (including a Risk Assessment template) are published on our website www.corfecastlehall.co.uk

AGM:

We usually hold our AGM in March, but our Constitution allows for a 15 month gap, so we have decided to delay scheduling the 2021 AGM in the hope that conditions may improve in the next couple of months.

When we re-open, bookings can be made by contacting Carole Speed on 01929 480810, or by email to carolepspeed@gmail.com.

HIGH SOCIETY



Jackdaws, small cousins to ravens (these have been back on the castle recently), are amongst the most visible birds in the parish. They fly around the village every day as they have probably been doing for centuries. The artist Fra Newbery, painting village scenes nearly one hundred years ago, included little flocks of jackdaws flying around the castle keep.

I came across a lovely quote about jackdaws in a book I read recently: *“Flocks of these birds fly, particularly towards evening, round the high gables, and communicate by means of penetrating cries. Sometimes I am convinced that I understand them: as perennial retainers, true to our home, we will fly round this, our eyrie, as long as one stone stands upon the other to afford us protection”*. Here in Corfe Castle the Parliamentarians did leave quite a few stones standing upon others and so affording the jackdaws protection. They have stayed true to Corfe Castle, nesting around the castle, ever since.

Jackdaws are intelligent birds with a highly developed social and family life. They do not nest crowded together in treetops like rooks in their rookeries, nor like crows in their isolated crows’ nests, but in loose colonies, often in close proximity to humans in towns and villages, with each pair occupying some dark nook, cranny or chimney pot but always within sight and sound of their neighbours. Their social behavior serves as an information super-highway, a twitter-sphere even because they very quickly learn from each other where and when there is food to be had. They line up on my garden fence waiting at the appointed time for their breakfast of oil-soaked oatmeal on the lawn.

If you look closely at a flock of jackdaws in flight at most times of year you will notice that the spacing of birds is neither uniform nor random but that the two members of each pair usually fly noticeably closer to each other than to the rest of the flock. Recently, I saw over a hundred jackdaws sitting in the poplar trees near my house, each one sitting within touching distance of its mate, and each pair apart from the others, looking like so many pairs of quotation marks hanging among the branches. They make very faithful partners.

People who study social birds like jackdaws have shown that each individual knows not just its mate by sight but also many other individuals with which it regularly comes into contact. I have even heard tell of crows being able to

recognise and remember individual humans. Members of the crow family are smarter than the average bird. With my less astute observational powers I can now recognize one of our local jackdaws because it is leucistic and so has lots of white wing feathers. This one and its partner have been cosyng up to each other and peering down a chimney pot opposite my house for weeks now and they turn up in my garden regularly to breakfast together.

Being able to tell birds apart as individuals makes watching them so much more interesting. Very quickly you begin to notice that individuals are as different from one another in their behaviours and their lot in life as we are. Some jackdaws will be at the top of the pecking order and dominate the others, some of which may be so low in the social hierarchy as to scarcely get a look in when it comes to getting the most desirable homes or a square meal. In time, and with some careful observation of how my neighbouring jackdaws get on with their neighbours, I might be able to work out where they stand in Corfe Castle’s jackdaw society.

Richard Caldow

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DOUBLE ACT VIRTUAL AGM!

Monday 1st March 7pm

In the comfort of your own home - via ZOOM!

Come along and join us discuss the running of the group and ideas for the next year.

If you would like to join please contact
Cherry on 07972799300 or email info@double-act.org.uk

With all the excitement of the vaccine, there is still so much uncertainty, but rest assured, as soon we are given the green light we will be back! Providing entertainment and a safe, friendly atmosphere for anyone wanting to take up a new hobby to come and join us – on or off the stage!

We are planning to host a quiz night, go ahead with our Summer Murder Walk, and hopefully our November production in one form or another.

We will keep you updated with new dates and events as and when information becomes available. In the meantime, stay safe, follow the rules, and we hope to see you soon!

We are always open to new members so if you are interested in joining us please contact Mike (chairman - 01929 480323) or Cherry (secretary - 07972799300) or email info@double-act.org.uk



Hopefully now some of you will have had your first vaccine jab and others of us are waiting to get ours soon. I'm sure a lot of you, like me, can't wait to get life back to some sort of normal.

Dates of next meeting

- **March 3rd** – AGM followed by Charades led by Carole. We are also going to introduce a 'spring watch' section where members are encouraged to share sightings from their garden.
- **April 6th**: Gill Wilkinson, Teresa's sister-in-law who will talk about her Heart Transplant at Papworth Hospital in January 2020.
- **May 4th**: Sue is hoping Reggie Wright from Godlingston Manor Kitchen will talk about her work.
- **June 1st**: A talk about Footprints – a charity which aims to bring a sense of community, hope and increased self-worth to socially excluded people, reducing reoffending and building stronger communities.
- Patti will do her Yoga talk when back in the hall.

We will be sending out the AGM information beforehand for people to read and comment on prior to the meeting. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible at the AGM and hope some of you will like to join in with Charades after the formal part of the meeting.

We would very much like to welcome new members. If you are new to the village or surrounding area and would like to join Aquarius please contact a member of the committee. It is a great way of meeting people and making friends.

Once again Deborah Stoker raised an amazing £75 pounds for the Aquarius Charity fund with her recent marmalade sale.

Don't forget to keep collecting stamps for SANDS, which can be dropped into Chris Kemp's house.

We have had two pieces of sad news to pass onto you.

Doreen Nielsen

It is with sad regret that I have to inform you that Doreen Nielsen, passed away peacefully on Sunday 7th February 2021 at the age of 91. Doreen had moved from Corfe to a Suffolk care-home to be near her son Martin in 2017, following the death of her much-loved husband, Gert. As an active member of the local Woman's Institute for many years, she held the position of Programme Secretary & Chairlady. She was an active supporter of Aquarius from its inception; this was 13 years ago to the day, on the 6th February 2021. Doreen was also an active St Edwards Church member and was always first in the queue when volunteers were required for whatever duty. She also served as a volunteer at Wareham Hospital for many years. Walking was one of her loves, but latterly this was not always possible due to her failing eyesight. She loved gardening as was evident when you passed her house. Entertaining was also one of her favourite activities, her afternoon teas with homemade cakes were legendary. She was devoted to her two sons and her many grandchildren.

There will be a cremation service in Suffolk and, when possible, a short committal service will be held in Corfe, after which her ashes will be placed alongside those of her husband, Gert, in God's Acre.

Doreen Green 1918-2021

Doreen Green, a long-time member of Aquarius, died peacefully on 23rd January in Clifftop Nursing Home where she had lived for just over a year. She was 102. Together with her husband she came to Corfe, living first in Cats Eye Cottage and then moving to the then very new Colletts Cottage in Colletts Close. Doreen loved her sport, lacrosse at school, later competitive tennis, and progressing to golf when her children were older. She was a member of the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club and was ladies golf captain for many years. She won the over 80s trophy more than once. At 95 she decided to retire from golf and took up croquet.

After her husband died in 2007 as she approached her 90th year she became passionate about bridge often playing late into the night. Doreen loved to travel and went with her daughter to see the tulips in Holland, the lakes of Italy and wonderful Barcelona in Spain.

During the Second World War, Doreen became a WREN officer. One of her duties was taking despatches to various sites around Britain. She was flown, and some of her flights were rather hair raising. Her flight log included the remarks that on one occasion "We landed upside down".

In Clifftop, Doreen was rather proud of the lovely view of Swanage Bay from her room. Even at 102 she was still a keen player, winning a gold medal for Velcro Darts and getting her picture in the Swanage Echo again! Poor hearing had stopped Doreen attending Aquarius meetings in recent years but she maintained her membership so she could continue to enjoy the Lunch Club. A very social lady, she will be greatly missed.


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National Trust

Cows are coming to Studland Bay

By Julia Galbenu (Dynamic Dunescapes Engagement Officer)

This summer at Studland Bay, you may see some new faces on the scene. Ten cattle will be coming to help bring our dunes back to life, during the months of June to September. They are part of the Dynamic Dunescapes project, where work over the past year is helping restore our dunes and provide habitats for rare and special life.

How will cattle help the dunes? Cattle play a similar role to wild herbivores, they crop and trample vegetation, open new areas and create a mix of different habitats. Over the past 100 years, our sand dunes have become over-vegetated and the percentage of bare sand has dropped from 15% in the 1930's to now just 2%. Our cattle will be grazing the densely vegetated areas of the dunes, at the centre of Studland Bay. They will feed mainly on purple moor grass and willow in the wet areas, but they will also trample through the heather and gorse and help keep our new sandy spaces open.

Where will the cattle be? Cattle grazing will only occur during the summer months, in an area to the East of Little Sea and well away from the beaches. You may spot a distant cow if you are walking through the dunes or crossing Northern Boundary from Ferry road to the beach. We have chosen Red Devon cattle, which have previously grazed National Trust sites in Purbeck, because we know that they are calm and docile creatures. If you do see the cattle, please do not approach or disturb them and keep your dogs on a lead.

Will the cattle be fenced in? Now this is where things get interesting! Rather than putting up a bunch of fences in the dunes, the cattle will be held by a new technology known as virtual fencing. This is a way to keep livestock enclosed



The cattle will alternate between the two grazing areas shown on the map, and the red line shows where the physical fence will be installed.

using a digital boundary on a phone app. The cattle wear solar panelled GPS collars, which play a tune to alert the animals when they approach the invisible fence line. If they cross it, the collar produces a small electric pulse – a fraction of a traditional electric fence. After a short training session, the



Our Red Devon cattle wearing their NoFence collars.

cows quickly learn to turn away when they hear the tune, keeping them enclosed virtually. To ensure the safety of people and cattle, we will also be installing a back-up fence along ferry road. This fence, along with access gates, will be installed just behind the road and will be going up in March.

Is virtual fencing safe? Last summer our cattle underwent their virtual fence training, it was a huge success and all the cattle quickly learnt how the system works. Our cattle will be checked daily by our grazier, and because the collars have a GPS we can also track the animals and always know where they are. There are huge benefits to virtual fencing: zero risk of cattle being caught in fences, insights into cattle behaviour, wildlife can move freely, no unattractive fencing, easy open access. It is also a very flexible tool, where you can easily adjust the fence line to exclude sensitive habitats or busy areas.



Join our volunteer team!

Fancy getting involved? Our cattle need ambassadors, people that are passionate about Studland's dunes, the wildlife and the role cattle have in dune restoration. Volunteer with us and help look after our cattle, showcase custodianship and engage with members of the public. Email julia.galbenu@nationaltrust.org.uk for details and keep an eye on our website and social media for updates!



Phasing beavers back - Gen Crisford, Engagement Officer for the Purbeck Beaver Project

National Trust

Beavers are having a bit of a moment aren't they? Reintroductions continue to grow in popularity as beavers are enlisted to help in the fight to save nature around the country. Seeing their return to West Dorset in the last month, in an enclosed project run by the Dorset Wildlife Trust (please note no public access), is an exciting local milestone and a welcome, optimistic news story amidst the current normal.



In 2019 I began talking with local landowners, residents and people with various different interests, to see what everyone thought about the idea of bringing beavers back to the Isle of Purbeck. Thank you very much to those of you who took the time to participate in this. The feedback from everyone has been really encouraging – not only in that it has revealed lots of enthusiasm for the cause, but also in the open and honest way that people are able to

share ideas. This has helped to understand and identify the long-term support systems that would be needed, to help us as a whole community to live alongside beavers again. Following a little project pause for much of 2020, a phased proposal to bringing beavers back has been developed to reflect this.

The land around Little Sea at Studland is recommended for phase one because of the highly suitable habitats, which are already managed primarily for nature. Beavers can help to improve these habitats, creating space within the wet woodland and benefiting struggling plant and insect species. Little Sea is also naturally contained in that it is surrounded by sea and dry heath, both inhospitable to the freshwater species, so they are unlikely to spread easily from here. Should an escape occur during phase one, the policy would be to trap and return the animals. We will need permission from DEFRA and sufficient funding to go ahead with phase one, but we hope that this may be possible later this year.

Phase two would involve us working closely with other landowners to potentially return beavers across the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve. This brings with it expansive environmental benefits, especially if including the lower reaches of the Corfe River (from below Castle View) where issues of excess nutrients and water quality can be addressed. Before this can happen, local management agreements and support schemes need to be in place to incentivise space for nature, and these need to be in line with upcoming government policies on beaver management and environmental land management. So, there are still a few ducks to line up and we will keep working with everyone to achieve this.

Phase 3 would mark the moment when beavers are allowed to make their return to the wider Dorset landscape, and transition to be a native part of our local wildlife.

All parts of this process will benefit hugely from the involvement of local residents, landowners and community groups, and I will be keeping in touch about opportunities for practical participation once we are all able to get together again. For now though, why not find out about beavers and the amazing things they do. If I can help with this, or if you would like to get in touch to provide or find out more information about the project proposal, please send me an email on gen.crisford@nationaltrust.org.uk.



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Mother's Day

March 14th is the day to celebrate our mums and step-mums and thank them for all they do for us.

We've lots of lovely cards and pressies suitable for the occasion, and can deliver your gift direct if you prefer, gift-wrapped and with a handwritten message so she knows who to thank!

We'll have lots of lovely new Spring ranges online too, and with Easter round the corner its time to look towards a new start – hopefully with the village open (or soon to be open) again.

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CORFE VALLEY NEWS

CALENDAR for MARCH 2021

Please note that these events are mostly still tentative so please check timing and that it is actually taking place with the organisers.

If you know about any forthcoming events please let us know.

2	March	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Peoples Assembly via Zoom to discuss the Dorset Local Plan
3	March	Wednesday	Afternoon	Aquarius AGM probably via Zoom
4	March	Thursday	8pm	Gardening Club AGM and quiz via Zoom
6	March	Saturday		Library Partially Re-opens
8	March	Monday	7 pm	Virtual Parish Council Meeting via Zoom
11	March	Thursday	7.30 pm	Environmental Group Meeting via Zoom
15	March	Monday		Closing date for comments on the Dorset Local Plan
17	March	Wednesday		Sustainable Swanage Solar Panels meeting

All details are correct as at publishing date, but please check with the organization involved before attending any events.

6	April	Tuesday	Afternoon	Aquarius talk about a heart transplant
12	April	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council Meeting via Zoom
4	May	Tuesday	Afternoon	Aquarius talk about Godlingston Manor kitchens
1	June	Tuesday	Afternoon	Aquarius talk about the charity Footprints



A sketch, by Ken Williams, of the ancient Sharford Bridge near Scotland Farm. The bridge has frequently been under water due to the heavy rain.



A sketch of Kimmeridge from the inside by Joan Brachi

More Useful Phone Numbers

Power and electrical - Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks:
0800 0727282 (free phone land line) or 0345 072 1905 (free phone mobile contracts or local rate for pay as you go)

Western Power Distribution:

0800 365900 (free phone land line and mobiles)

Water - Wessex Water:

03456004600 (free from most land lines or local charges apply dependant on the land line or mobile provider)

Gas - Transco - Gas Emergency:

0800 111999 (free phone, mobile phone charged as per the local provider rate)

Roads and highways - Highways England (including incidents A35, A37 and A31):

0300 1235000 (local call rate or 3p - 40p per minute from a mobile dependant on the provider)

Dorset Council (including incidents on the Dorset Council highway):

01305 221000 (10p per minute from a land line or 3p - 40p per minute from a mobile dependent upon the provider)

Flooding - Environment Agency - Flood Line:

0345 9881188 (calls are charged depending on the callers service provider and where there call is made).

Dorset Council out of hours Emergency Contact Number – 01929 556561

DORSET EMERGENCY CARE SERVICE

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Church of England

St Aldhelm's Benefice

Contact Details for St Aldhelm's Benefice

Rector Ian Jackson 01929 480257 rectorsabpurbeck@gmail.com

Associate Minister James Mercer 01929 422454

james_staldhelm@icloud.com

Hon Assistant Priest Anne Bond 01929 480249 rev.anne@outlook.com

Curate Nick Webb 07866 546162 fulloflifegardens@googlemail.com

Benefice Office: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Benefice Administrator: Katie Curtis St George's Church, Langton Matravers
BH19 3HZ 01929 427822 office@purbeckbenefice.plus.com

(NB Katie is currently working from home, but is contactable by email above
during office hours)

Enquiries for Baptisms / Weddings / Funerals / Banns - contact Benefice
Office and for the Corfe Valley parishes contact Ian Jackson

www.purbeckhillsbenefice.wordpress.com

 [St Aldhelm Benefice](#)

 [@StAldhelm](#)

Church Wardens in the Valley Churches

Corfe Castle: Penelope Smith 480109 John Lindsay 481498

Church Knowle, Kimmeridge, & Steeple Contact Ian Jackson

Visit St Edwards Website - <http://stedwardscorfecastle.co.uk/>

The Reverend Anne Bond writes:

Are you having a good and virtuous Lent? Did you resolve to give up
chocolate? Or alcohol? Did you decide to take up cycling for the sake of your
health? Or to donate all the tins in your larder to the Food Bank?

No? (Or perhaps you did – in which case I sincerely and truly admire you.)

Well, speaking for myself, the deprivations of Lent have seemed just too difficult this year.

To be ruthlessly honest, despite having been vaccinated I was still far too frightened of coming within infection-distance of somebody or something carrying the dreaded covid-19 to venture far outside the safe confines of my house for anything that wasn't dire necessity. The excuse I told myself was that my adult children have given me to understand that if I catch the virus, they won't be sorry, sympathetic and sad; they will be furious because it'll be evidence that I haven't been careful enough. They still need their mother, they said. For me to catch it, they said, would be downright selfish.

I was touched by their affection (I think!) but it wasn't only that that kept me skulking indoors keeping a wide two metres between myself and (for example) the postman. It was simply that I am afraid in a kind of general and non-specific way of the whole world-wide covid-19 situation.

Fear is a debilitating emotion. It saps your energy and makes you turn to worthless pleasures like watching endless whodunnits on television, so you forget whatever-it-is you're afraid of. It can give you nightmares, it can make you ashamed or embarrassed, it can make you thoroughly dislike yourself, and extreme fear can have physical manifestations such as losing control of bodily functions. But – it is a normal, human, feeling. To some degree or another, we all experience it.

Even Jesus did.

It took Jesus until he was about twenty-eight years old to gather courage enough to launch himself on his God-given mission to save humanity from itself. He knew he had to be able to resist the temptations that would worm their way into his mind if he was to stay the course. He dreaded the discomforts and pains of his body, fearing that needs such as hunger would overcome him. He was afraid he would persuade himself his Father God wouldn't let him get hurt whilst knowing that of course he would, that being hurt like other men was part of the point. He was afraid he would be unable to endure terrible pain, that he would be tempted to do anything and everything humanly possible to avoid it. He knew what he was going to have to do, and it scared the living daylight out of him. It took a whole six weeks or so of isolated self-deprivation and self-exposure to those things that frightened him most, and of close communion with his Father God, before he felt himself strong enough to face what he knew lay ahead. And even then, he remained afraid. Three years later, on the Mount of Olives, he prayed: "Father, if you

are willing, take this cup from me ..." and 'being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground'. (Luke 22:42, 44)

That's truly terrible fear. And yet – in spite of it - he went ahead just the same.

Any fear any of us may have been feeling recently can only be a pale shadow of the fear experienced by Jesus – which makes us realise anew the extraordinary degree of Jesus' courage. And it doesn't make our fear any less acute. Our hearts go out to those struggling for their lives in covid hospital wards and elsewhere, praying they will make a full recovery. We dread the day we might have to face the loss of our own loved ones, or indeed our own death.

However – never forget that after the crucifixion of Jesus came the glorious, magnificent triumph of the Resurrection, the amazing victory of Easter.

And after last year's despair and anguish, we can now glimpse, as at the end of a long dark tunnel, the light of freedom. By the time you read this, vast numbers of us will be rejoicing at having received vaccination injections against covid-19. *Now* there is hope. *Now* we can look forward to an end to this misery. The journey into the light may not be easy, and it may not be swift - but we WILL get there.

With love, Anne

Bible Readings - March 2021

Sunday 7th March

3rd Sunday of Lent

Psalm 19

Exodus 20: 1 – 7

1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 25

John 2: 13 – 22

Sunday 14th March

4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

Psalm 107: 1 – 9

Numbers 21: 4 – 9

Ephesians 2: 1 – 10

John 3: 14 – 21

Sunday 21st March

5th Sunday of Lent

Psalm 51: 1 – 13

Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34

Hebrews 5: 5 – 10
John 12: 20 – 33

Sunday 28th March

Palm Sunday

Psalms 118: 1 – 2; 19 – end
Isaiah 50: 4 – 9A
Philippians 2: 5 – 11
Mark 11: 1 – 11

Sunday 3rd April

EASTER DAY

Psalms 118: 1 – 2; 14 – 24
Isaiah 25: 6 – 9
Acts 10: 34 – 43
Mark 16: 1 – 8

Services in the Valley Churches during March 2021

Sunday services will be on line (Zoom)

- 10am Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570811911>

Just a reminder – if you have a computer (PC or Apple) with internet access, you do not need to install any Zoom software to “attend” Zoom services. If you use a smartphone or tablet, you will need the Zoom application installed.

Some “in church” services are taking place locally

- Lady St Mary, Wareham – Sunday 10am – Holy Communion and lasts about 40 minutes. No booking required but if capacity is reached people would have to be turned away; this is unlikely, but not impossible.

Online coffee mornings.

We are now holding a regular Thursday online Coffee Morning each week 11am – everyone is welcome. The link to join is below:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84655538059?pwd=dzJESHN2M3B1RzIrSVVpZmphaUxiUT09>

Regretfully, St Edward’s Church will remain closed for the time being until local trends and national lockdown proposals are clarified.



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POOR DEVIL!

Well, there was I roaming to and fro upon the Earth when I saw that – that chip- off-the-old-block, that Son of He-who-cast-me-out-of-Heaven - just wandering like a lamb to the slaughter in my cruel and merciless wilderness. Uninvited! *Unprotected!* What a gift!

I watched him for a while. He seemed tired – and he was very thin. Once he stumbled as he walked. Every now and then he turned aside and ran his hands over the tough tendrils of a sparse plant – and I realised, to my joy, that he was searching for berries. He was hungry!

I shimmied up to him. I walked beside him. His mind was open and clear to me.

“Hello-a!” I said. “Well met!”

He grunted, and regretfully cast aside a dried-up blackberry.

“If you’re really the Son of – *ahem* – God, command these stones to become loaves of bread. Go on! You know you can do it! Don’t they look delicious ... golden, crusty, soft in the middle ... I could even rustle up some butter. *Think* of it ...”

Wearily, he interrupted me.

“It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

I was affronted! I was only trying to help! I’d forgotten – *ahem* – God’s beastly book. But two could play at that game. I took him to the so-called ‘holy city’. I put him on the top pinnacle of the Temple, and I said to him in my best virtuous Daddy-God-fearing voice: “If you *are* the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you’, and ‘on their hands they will bear you up so that you will not dash your foot against a stone’.”

Then I waited.

He balanced on the point of the spire and looked down, down, down to where people, like ants, scurried about their business. He sighed, a deep, sorrowful expelling of breath, then he turned his oh-so-compelling eyes upon me.

“Again, it is written ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

And I – I ... I felt ashamed ...

I shook myself and whipped him off that pinnacle with a crack like a whip. Huh! No one – but *no one* – gets the better of ME!

I tossed him in whirlwinds and rolled him in thunderclouds until I dropped him with a thud onto the top of the highest of Earth’s mountains. He landed in a snow drift. As he was climbing out, I revelled in my majestic mountain magnificence: deadly jagged peaks sharp against the ice-blue sky,

the sting of tempest-driven snow against my cheeks, crevasses shadowy beneath solid-seeming snow-bridges waiting to enfold the unwary. But *oh!* So beautiful! I widened the horizon a little, so he could see all the Kingdoms of the whole world laid out in lavish and lovely detail before him.

“LOOK!” I said.

He turned his poor, pinched face, blue with cold, and gazed obediently.

I spoke seductively.

“All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me ...”

There was a moment of frozen silence, alive with expectation.

Then his eyes snapped searing flame and he turned his face to mine, blazing with fury as he roared at me with a voice that clenched my innards:

“Away with you Satan! For it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him!’”

I recoiled. It was as if I had been struck by lightning.

And ... and I went.

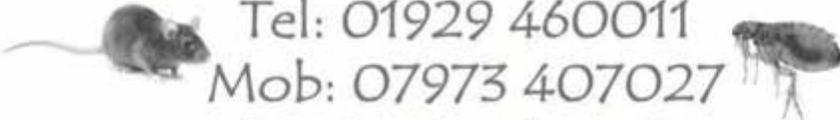
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Pioneer View

Dear Friends,

In this month's Pioneer View, I would like to offer some reflections on the Growing Compassionate communities Reach and Care Scheme. This with a view to provide some insights and learnings from supporting marginalised groups during this pandemic.

The Reach and Care Scheme was primarily created to address loneliness and isolation in our communities through a befriending scheme in collaboration with local GP practices.

However, recently we have begun transporting people to the vaccine hubs. I took my first person for their vaccine recently. The experience was incredibly uplifting, seeing and witnessing hope tangibly rising in people's faces.

When I reflected a little more on this, I began to appreciate the part my team has played in this wonderful process. Its key that we all play our part, small as it may be, but it is significant if we are to make a difference in people's lives and communities.

Here is a quote to ponder.

“Vision comes alive when everyone sees where his or her contribution makes a difference.” Ken Blanchard

For me, this quote sums why we do what we do in the Growing Compassionate Communities charity. It's important to move away from simply talking about making a difference and deliver something tangible that changes lives and grows hope.

I am reminded of Sir Tom Moore, who passed away recently. One person making a difference to many lives through his effort's in his back garden.

I want to end with another quote.

“In this life we cannot always do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” Mother Teresa

Let us be people who choose to make a difference, however small.

Go well.

Peter

Corfe Castle Evangelical Congregational Church

LIVING A DAY AT A TIME

We are currently living in uncertain times with Covid-19 and during times like this, our faith can be challenged. Some days we can feel good whilst other days we can feel strange. We have learnt to work differently but sometimes life still feels like a mess. 2020 has not been like anything we expected but we have found new ways to connect to one another.

During this challenging time, I find myself coming back to the same thought, be grateful. Be grateful for the fact we are alive, healthy and breathing. Be grateful for the extra time with family and friends, even though it may be virtually. And while there is a lot of uncertainty in the world right now, one thing is for sure, we will come out stronger on the other side and ready to fight whatever the future holds for us.

I know it's tough to see the light in times of darkness, but God is light and I truly believe that we are not put into a situation that we cannot conquer. Always be positive and never give up hope. It's when we start to lose hope that we begin to struggle mentally.

The number of people in the UK who have died from the Coronavirus has surpassed 117,000. But for those who have lost a teacher, a brother, a spouse or someone else important to them, the loss is beyond anything numbers can convey. Dealing with the loss of a loved one at any time is distressing. Losing someone during the coronavirus pandemic, whether to COVID-19 or to other causes, will bring additional challenges.

I would like to share a Prayer with you, which is written by the Sisters of IHM, Scranton during a Pandemic.

Loving God, Holy One, your desire is for our wholeness and well-being. We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.

We ache for ourselves and our neighbours, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray: May love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.

**Call us to profound trust in Your faithful presence,
You, the God who does not abandon.
You, the Holy One,
Breathing within us,
Breathing among us,
Breathing around us,
in our beautiful yet wounded world.**

Celia Taylor (Church Secretary)

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‘You Don’t Know Me But...’

Artsreach reaches out with new Telephone Theatre Play

Dorset’s rural touring arts charity, Artsreach, is pleased to present Stute Theatre’s ‘*You Don’t Know Me But...*’, a new show written and performed by winning theatre maker Sophia Hatfield and directed by Olivier Award Winning Theatre and BBC Radio Director Gwenda Hughes.

Performed live over the telephone, this innovative piece allows audience members the opportunity to experience a real live theatre performance from the comfort of their own home, at a time when live face-to-face theatre is not possible.

Meet Vick. Care giver, Mother, Partner and Daughter. You’ve almost certainly walked past her in the street, stood behind her in a queue or driven past her in your car. Now take the time to delve a little deeper and experience a day in her life.



Vick is a care worker in a residential home. As her working day progresses, hear her running from place to place, helping residents to dress, keeping them calm and offering a friendly ear to talk to. But today, something is different. The day’s encounters gradually uncover a deeply hidden memory and Vick finds herself transported back to her childhood, where a traumatic incident changes her outlook forever...

Inspired by real memories and interviews from a care home, this innovative and intimate 20-minute audio play highlights unsung stories of everyday care across generations and celebrates the dedication and spirit of workers and residents in care homes across the UK. Expect live music, beautiful writing and immersive sound effects in this unique approach to socially distanced theatre.

Writer/performer Sophia of Stute Theatre said: *“It’s a privilege to perform such*

a relevant play and highlight the often hidden stories of care and the wonderful contribution care workers make to society.”

There are just 30 telephone performances slots available for *You Don’t Know Me But*, between 3pm and 7pm on the 15, 16, 27, 27 and 28 March. Booking is essential and this play is suitable for ages 16+. Find out more and secure one of these limited tickets by visiting the Artsreach website www.artsreach.co.uk or by calling 01305 269512.

“Beautifully presented. The atmosphere of theatre, with a lovely individual experience” Audience Member, July 2020

Social Media Links - @Artsreach [facebook.com/Artsreachdorset](https://www.facebook.com/Artsreachdorset)

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Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club

Welcome to SPRING! That is my hope - this is a certainty →

WELCOME to the CCGC AGM & Quiz!!

When: Thursday 4th March 2021.

Time: 8pm (or 20.00 hours GMT on a 24 hour clock)

Where: On your Smart phone, Tablet or Computer
Via ZOOM.

Please note – you do not need to download any software (Apps). All you have to do is copy this link into your device and click on it:-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89457543177?pwd=TzdadUxIYWREaEhmWmtPcSrdW11dz09>

Meeting ID: 894 5754 3177 Passcode: 917614

ALL are welcome. Club member or not. Come for the AGM (very short) and hear some good news about the next Membership year; then stay for the Quiz.

The Quiz will be fun (I'm told) and, as a token of our esteem and to recognise your skills and knowledge, we shall present the top three *Gardening Brains of Purbeck* with – you guessed it – a Garden Centre TOKEN each. 1st £25.00 / 2nd £15.00 / 3rd £10.00



As to the future activities of our Club – I can't find a Garden centre online to sell me a crystal ball – but rest assured your committee is working within the current guidelines on your behalf. So, we are planning for Zoom meetings until the authorities deem it safe to meet again in person. We have plans pencilled in for activities and trips when free to do so and in the meantime we all have our gardens/allotments/small holdings/window boxes to keep us busy.

Good to hear that the Vaccination scheme is going well. NOW can some clever person come up with a vaccine I can use to inoculate my garden against weeds? PLEASE!

Use your growing space for fresh air, exercise and food for the soul and stay safe – the virus is still out there - each of you is special and precious and our community needs you.

David



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- Housing and advice if at risk of homelessness
- Referrals for charitable support or to food banks

Purbeck residents needing advice can phone Dorset Adviceline on freephone 0800 144 8848 (Textphone: 0800 144 8884), 10am-4pm weekdays to talk to an adviser. Alternatively, you can use our webform at www.purbeckadvice.org.uk for email or telephone call-back, and access a wealth of self-help advice online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

New drop-in has started at **Mill Lane, Wareham Office** - from **Tuesday October 20th, 12-2pm** on a first come, first served basis.

The answer to last month's Photo Quiz

The answer to the two ladies standing in what appears to be a field (p52) is Colletts Close & the house is Vergers Mead. We are not sure who the ladies are but one could be the housekeeper & the other, Miss Alice Rogers Barnes, the owner.

The other view of the Castle (p 53) is Copper Bridge. When the Rector used to live in The Glebe on the Church Knowle road he would ride across Copper Bridge to attend services in St Edwards.

We still have no idea who or where the third picture of a lady outside the double doors was taken.

News from the Library

A Return to the 'New Normal-ish'!

There is good news from the library this month! It is our intention to partially re-open the library for 'order and collect' on 6th March.

The original 'order and collect' scheme will be reinstated and books will also be able to be reserved from the Libraries West catalogue. Collection times will be as before,

Wednesday mornings 11.00 to 12.00 and Saturday mornings 10.00 to 12.00.

A big thank you to our volunteers who have said they will help operate this service (and who have kept the library running in very difficult circumstances over the last year).

That's all for now but keep watching this space!

For up to date information see our website

(<https://sites.google.com/site/corfecastlecommunitylibrary/home>) or our Facebook page (Corfe Castle Community Library).



1st CORFE CASTLE BROWNIES

Brownies has been continuing with Zooms and we have completed the Step-Up Badge during this half of the term. This has included learning to pick things up with our feet, guessing whose feet are whose from photos making and eating cheesy feet and salads, and painting toenails, plus plenty more.

The next half of the term will see us focussing on finishing at least 2 themes to see the girls achieve their theme awards.

This year has been difficult for everyone but we have soldiered on. Not all like using Zoom but most have tried hard with it and had fun however it has not made for a good year to recruit either girls or leaders.

WE REALLY DO NEED A LEADER TO COME FORWARD TO TAKE OVER THE MAIN LEAD WITH MY SUPPORT FROM APRIL.

Hopefully by then we should at least be able to meet outside and get some fresh air and sunshine which will make for more fun and varied activities.

If you would be able to join us as a leader or know someone else who might please let me know or email warehamandwooldistrict@girlguidingdorset.org.uk for more information otherwise we will be looking at probable closure, which would be very sad after 33 years!!!

Chris Kemp (Brown Owl)

“Following the successful People’s Assembly about the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy consultation, a further People’s Assembly is planned about the Dorset Council Local Plan consultation. Consultation on the Dorset Council Local Plan is due to start on Monday 18th January, and will run for 8 weeks until Monday 15th March. The date for this People’s Assembly / Open Meeting is Tuesday 2nd March, and further details will be included in the March CVN, and publicised on the Corfe Castle Parish Council website <https://www.corfecastlepc.org.uk> and Facebook page.”



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or Mjlballet@gmail.com
- **Short Mat Bowls**@ 14.00

TUESDAY

- **Whist Drive** – Eileen Cake 01929 552393 (**alternate Tuesdays @ 7.30pm**)
- **Short Mat Bowls** @ 14.00

WEDNESDAY

- **Say So Drama** – 10.30 – 12.00 with Emma for adults with learning disabilities – 07725 942609
- **Yoga** – Pam Steele - Tel 01929 556714
or pamsteeleyoga@gmail.com
- **Ballet** – Miranda Hindson - Tel 07919441836
or Mjlballet@gmail.com

THURSDAY

- **Health Qigong**– Penny Youssef - Tel 07969925502
or pennyoussef1@gmail.com

FRIDAY

- **Short Mat Bowls** –@ 14.00
- **Zhineng Qigong**- Penny Youssef - Tel 07969 925502
or pennyoussef1@gmail.com

SUNDAY

- **Purbeck Antiques Collectors Fayre** – (Last Sunday of each month) phone Lesley 01929 425402

Kimmeridge News

Romey Gillespie

We have heard the sad news this week of the death of a much-loved Kimmeridgean, Romey Gillespie. She will be remembered by many for her open-hearted generosity, kindness and fondness of all the village children. When they lived at and ran the shop she really was the heart of the village, always filled with laughter. One child's memory that we have been given is of the hot choc & marshmallows after carol singing. Our thoughts are with Jim and the rest of the family at this time.

The Etches Collection awarded Designated Status

The Etches Collection has been officially awarded Designated Status by Arts Council England for our collection of Jurassic Marine life. The Designation Scheme is a mark of distinction that celebrates nationally and internationally significant collections. This award recognises The Etches Collection, as a diverse and globally significant collection of marine fossils, and we hope this spotlight safeguards it for the enjoyment and enrichment of many generations to come. Although the Museum remains closed due to Covid restrictions, lots of work is going on behind the scenes ready for re-opening and also to reach wider audiences via the internet. See more at www.theetchescollection.org

Covid-19 – Vaccinations – the summer!

We have been pleased to help out at the very successful vaccination clinic run by our local GP Practices at Wareham Hospital. The teamwork and happy atmosphere there has been a joy to be part of. Even more so, the delight that so many local people have already had their vaccines. Although Kimmeridge Bay toll road & car parks remain closed, we are hopeful that vaccination will allow us to return to a more normal life later this year. It may well be a busy summer in Purbeck!

Steve & Helen Earwicker (earwicker@btinternet.com)

HOW CORFE LOST IT'S MAYOR.

Ida Woodward writing in 1907 declared Corfe to be one of the most ancient Boroughs in England, and there can be no doubt about this. A Saxon burgh and Norman stronghold it undoubtedly had a Mayor or its equivalent for more than 1000 years. The word Mayor is Norman French and denotes the Town Leader. There are records of Mayors in Corfe as far back as the time of Richard 11 and by the Charter of Queen Elizabeth the Councillors could call themselves 'Barons' with the privilege of being able to hunt the stag on Mayday. They had the right to choose mayor, bailiffs and the coroner. The Court Rolls enacted that no islander could marry his daughter to an outsider without the Constable's permission that no house could be built on the heath and no fishing allowed on the Sabbath.

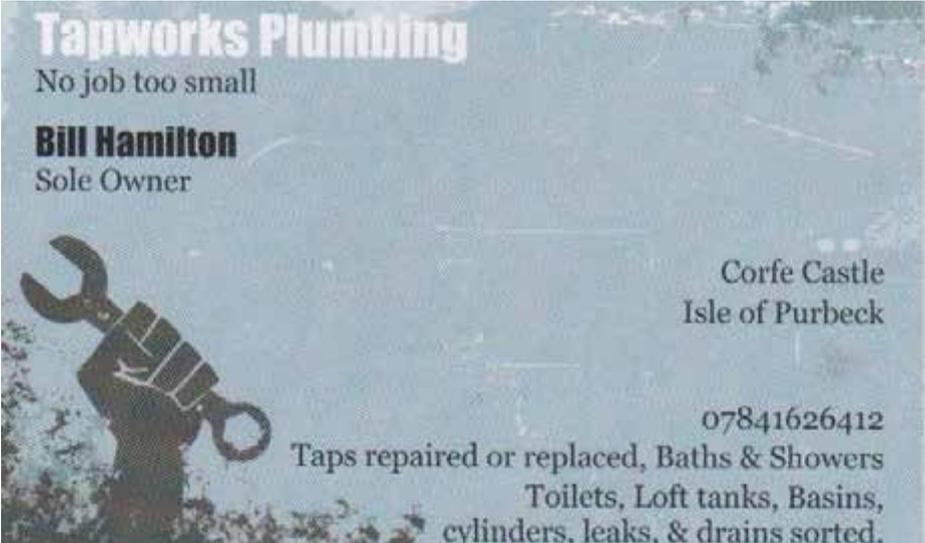
However the Mayoralty was doomed by a report in 1879 by the Municipal Corporation Commission which singled out some 86 small Corporations. It read - "It appears to us that it is not expedient that any of these Corporations which are municipal should continue in their present state and condition. It seems to us that by the smallness of their population and the duties performed that they should not retain their municipal functions". There were other towns which suffered and one of these was Christchurch which unlike Corfe has regained its Mayor and status. The national press derived some amusement from the report and the Daily News wrote in 1880 "Corfe is one of the most curious villages in southern England. It lies under the picturesque ruin which guards the opening through the great chalk downs which shut off the Isle of Purbeck. It has a Corporation as quaint as the odd houses which have a single room protruding into the main street over the front door. Some time ago there was a caricature circulated of the local grocer who was also the Mayor, who selected the Mayor, the Chairman of the Public Trusts and of the Committee appointed annually to look into the accounts of the Trusts and of those who dispose of the trusts. They were all the same person. There is also a mace bearer who attends the Mayor, a cantor whose duty it is to inspect all food in the Borough and the most coveted post of ale bearer. There is also a hayward whose duty it is to prevent cattle from damaging hedges and to put them in the local pound".

The result of the Commission's report and unfavourable press comment was that Corfe lost its Mayor and Corporation status, being reduced to a Paris council some few years afterwards. Ninety years later the same fate befell Swanage and Wareham although the former was never a Borough.

The clock was turned back when tradition became more important. By the 1972 Local Government Act, Parish Councils who wished to do so could pass a

resolution by changing the name (but nothing else) to that of 'Town Council' with a Town Mayor. Swanage and Wareham chose to do this. Tradition dies hard in Dorset, perhaps it is not too much to hope that one day we may see the Mayor, followed by his mace bearer, parading the streets of our village once more.

P.D.R



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What did you do in the War, Granny?

In 1942, after we moved to Upper Parkstone, I was conscripted. Although I could have opted out because the firm where I was a clerk was on Government work, I decided to go! If you have read my previous notes you will have noticed what a happy trio we were, but after my teens I began to want to spread my wings—and leave the nest without hurting the feelings of my very dear parents. The teacher training escape route had closed, but here was another—my parents never knew that I could have claimed exemption.

I set off to appear at an ATS reception unit at Aldermaston, near Reading. After a month of training we were in uniform, drilled and turned into apprentice soldiers and sorted! This process included an IQ test and interviews leading to a placement in a suitable job—generally clerks, cooks or orderlies! I was sent to be a clerk in an administration office in Northern Oxford. I day I read about a “Trade” test for an air-survey cartographer. I realised that I could probably fit this well as my main subject at school had been Geography - and our teacher at equivalent to A-level had been excellent at map reading, interpretation and also air photography use. In 1942 printing in colour was a laborious task of tracings of each colour being laid one upon another- and Letraset hadn't been invented—so every word on a pre-war and wartime map was written by hand. My CO was enthusiastic in support and helped me to apply. I went to the Royal Engineers Survey Training course at Wynnstay Hall near Ruabon in North Wales for 3 months. I had never been so far north and had a wonderful area to explore, a job I loved, and a rest from the bombing in southern England. On Saturdays we hitch-hiked to Chester to explore and shop, or on Sundays we hitched to Llangollen to enjoy the Welsh countryside and the wild daffodils. There was a friendly band of WVS manning a canteen in Ruabon and several pubs—but NOT on Sunday! In those days very few women drank in pubs as it was considered infra dig - but the thirsty men had to go to Shropshire, over the border, if they wanted a Sunday beer. Anyway, on 1s4d (6p today) per day it was impossible.

The pay may seem small but we had few expenses. We had uniforms and better food than civilians had. The 4d/day was for shoe polish, button polish, hankies, soap and toothpaste; the shilling (5p) for everything else. Civilian clothes were not allowed. In a Nissen hut containing 24 girls in double bunks there were no

hiding places when inspection took place. Every blanket had to be folded just so and kit precisely laid out with nothing to obstruct the officer or NCO's eagle eye for dust.

Wynnstay was a beautiful mansion approached by a long uphill-and-down drive through parkland. It was the home of Sir William Watkins Wynn. Inside, all the treasures had been removed and many walls covered with plywood for protection. I remember being responsible for decorating the bathroom for a Walt Disney themed party—using redundant wallpaper and chalk and crayons. We also had our own concert party and various sports teams. The tutors were all male and led us poor rookies a real dance—such as sending me to the CO to ask for a long weight! There was also the “C for Comma” crew, who had a Jeep and did all the carting jobs- coal delivery, logs, collecting waste, helping gardeners, etc—in fact anything that need 4 wheels, biceps and a great sense of humour.

It was here that we learnt to work as a team—of ten of us—some entrusted with the mathematics of working to 1/100th of an inch, some with lettering or drawing and some with the actual triangulation from overlapping air photographs – and then the drawing in of contours as seen in stereoscopic pairs, overlapping by 60%. About half of us passed to be posted to survey units in the RE and proudly wore our RE insignia of a brass round bomb with flames at the top. The army selection boards for this trade were a bit vague. Anyone with artistic ability was tried out. There were quite a few artists (no use unless they could draw to survey accuracy), an underwear designer from Kayser Bondor (she was great at helping us find a use for any discarded parachute material, even if it was dyed khaki), a Christmas card designer and one whose job it was to write the trite messages for cards (like “to greet you most heartily”), a professional antique tapestry repairer from a London auction house, a shoe designer, a carton designer for a well-known soap manufacturer, etc.

Two of us found ourselves at Nuneham Courtney near Oxford, which was an RAF station with no planes, but which held photo cover of the British Isles (and some countries not yet in the war, such as Spain, Greenland, Iceland, etc). Our main job was concerned with camouflage of buildings and ground marking—selecting photos for the experts who would decide how to outwit the enemy. We were fascinated by the model-making department, creating scale models of

targets. We had a lot of different parts of Intelligence Services including Americans and Royal Naval officers training in models and photo interpretation. As the only 2 girls in khaki we were almost a law unto ourselves. In the army women were not compelled to do PE in mixed groups—so we soon learnt to say “Oh, we don’t do that in the ATS”, and got away with bending a lot of rules. Because our work was secret we didn’t attend pay parades, but an officer from Oxford used to come to the Guardroom and we had to go up to her to receive our pay—she was not allowed in.

Just before our jobs dwindled and we were to be transferred to the main (and only) photo intelligence unit at RAF Medmenham on the Thames - between Marlowe and Henley - we had an inspection. The Brigadier of Air Survey was to visit—we two girls swept and polished and sorted and cleaned—much to the amusement of the Americans next door! The Brigadier and his entourage arrived, and he was such a pleasant man with a twinkle in his eye that we lost our army-instilled apprehension and enjoyed the visit. It was only after he left that we noticed the sign that our irreverent neighbours had pinned to our door—it said LADIES in the unmistakable print of that time!

So we moved to Medmenham to a Gibbs White Dentifrice-type castellated edifice overlooking the Thames—previously known as Danesfield, and owned (I believe) by the HP Sauce Magnate. It contained the hub of photo intelligence for all services of the war effort—but no planes. Large surrounding beech woods provided cover for masses of Nissen huts.

Editor’s note: RAF Medmenham later became Headquarters RAF Signals Command from where all RAF communications were organised throughout the world. I was posted there in 1972 and it was a very interesting place having its own force of special signals aircraft which collected intelligence worldwide. A job now done by the Rivet Joint based at RAF Waddington.

Joan’s Story will be concluded in next month’s CVN. Stephen



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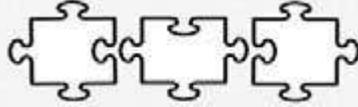
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Regular events in Corfe Castle & environs

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
MONDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10.00-11.00am	Coffee Morning	Springwell Close
Each	2.30 - 4.30	Whist and tea	Springwell Close
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Each	7 - 11pm	Chess Club (Sep - Apr)	Morton's House
1st	7pm	Double Act	C C Village Hall
2nd	7pm	CC Parish Council	C C Town Hall
TUESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	9.15 – 10.45am	& 11am – 12 Yoga	Langton Scout Hut
Each	9.30 - 11.30	Intermediate yoga	Swanage - 477169
Each	10.30-noon	Parent & Child Group	C C Village Hall
Each	6.15-7.45pm	Brownies (term-time)	C C Village Hall
Each	6.30 – 7.30pm	Adult	C C Village Hall
		Ballroom Dance	Donna 01202 243803
Each	7.45 – 9.15pm	Badminton	C C Village Hall
1st	2 pm	Aquarius	C C Village Hall
2nd	7.30pm	CK parish Council	Odd months Furzebrook VH; even CK
WEDNESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	9.30am- noon	Intermediate yoga	Kimmeridge 477169
Each	9.45am-12.45	Wool Workshop	C.C. Village Hall
Each	7-9pm	Youth Club	C C Village Hall
Each	8.30	Poker	Corfe Castle Club
THURSDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10.00 - 11.30am	Busy Bees	CC Primary School
3rd	11.30am	Probus Club	Mortons House
2nd	7 pm	CC Environment Gp	By Zoom
Each	6.30 – 8.00 pm	Yoga (439041)	Harmans Cross VH
Each	10.00 – 1.0 pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Alternate	7.30pm	Bingo	C C Village Hall
FRIDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Classes	Furzebrook Studios
Each	8.30pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club
SATURDAY			
1st	10.30am	Village Coffee Morning	C C Village Hall
SUNDAY			
Each	1.00pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club

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